

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) Hydrofluoroethers of formula:



wherein:

$T = CH_3$ ;

$X, X'$ , equal to or different from each other, are selected between  $F, CF_3$ ;

$T' = F, Cl, H, C_1-C_3$  perfluoroalkyl,  $CH_3, CH_2OH, COCl, CHO, CO_2H$ ;

$R_f$  is selected from:

- $C_2-C_{15}$  perfluoroalkylene;
- $-(C_2F_4O)_m(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_n(CF_2O)_p(CF(CF_3)O)_q-$

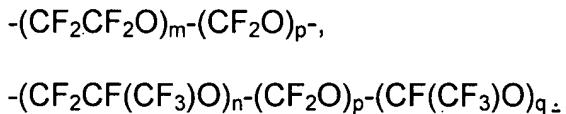
wherein

the sum  $n+m+p+q$  ranges from 2 to 200,

the  $(p+q)/(m+n+p+q)$  ratio is lower than or equal to 10:100, preferably comprised between 0.5:100 and 4:100; the  $n/m$  ratio ranges from 0.2 to 6, preferably from 0.5 to 3;  $m, n, p, q$  are equal to or different from each other and when  $m, n$  range from 1 to 100, preferably from 1 to 80, then  $p, q$  range from 0 to 80, preferably from 0 to 50; the units with  $n, m, p, q$  indexes being statistically distributed along the chain;

- $-(CF_2CF_2CF_2O)_r$  wherein  $r$  ranges from 2 to 200,
- $-(CF(CF_3)CF_2O)_s-$  wherein  $s$  ranges from 2 to 200 [[,]]

2. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A process Hydrofluoroethers according to claim 1, wherein  $R_f$  is selected from the following structures:



3. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the formula (II) compounds of claim 1 comprising the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors:



wherein:



$X, X', R_f$  are as defined in formula (II) of claim 1, carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum, ~~preferably on metal fluorides, preferably in the presence of inert solvents~~, at a temperature in the range 20°C-150°C, ~~preferably 80°C-120°C~~, at a pressure between 1 and 50 atm, ~~preferably between 1 and 10 atm~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the metal fluorides are selected from the group formed by  $CaF_2$ ,  $BaF_2$ ,  $MgF_2$ ,  $AlF_3$ , ~~more preferably  $CaF_2$~~ .

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the Pt concentration on the support is comprised ~~between~~ between 0.1% and 10% with respect to the total weight of the catalyst, ~~preferably between 1% and 2% by weight~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount in the range 1%-100%, ~~preferably 10%-100%~~ by weight with respect to the weight of the formula (III) compound.

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the inert solvent is selected among perfluorotetrahydrofuran, perfluorotetrahydropyran, or their mixtures.

8. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 1, wherein the  $(p+q)/(m+n+p+q)$  ratio is between 0.5:100 and 4:100.

9. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 1, wherein the n/m ratio ranges from 0.5 to 3.

10. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 1, wherein when m, n range from 1 to 80, then p, q range from 0 to 80.

11. (New and Withdrawn) Hydrofluoroethers of claim 10, wherein when m, n range from 1 to 80, then p, q range from 0 to 50.

12. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors is carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum on metal fluorides.

13. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the reduction of the formula (III) corresponding precursors is carried out with gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst formed by supported platinum in the presence of inert solvents.

14. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the temperature is in the range 80°C-120°C.

15. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the pressure is between 1 and 10 atm.

16. (New) A process according to claim 4, wherein the metal fluorides are  $\text{CaF}_2$ .

17. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the Pt concentration on the support is comprised between 1% and 2% by weight with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.

18. (New) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is used in an amount in the range 10%-100% by weight with respect to the weight of the formula (III) compound.